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AUTHOR(S):

Tutin, Caroline

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WENNER-GREN LIMERICKS

by Caroline Tutin

We all came here thanks to Sydel
Our interesting stories to tell
She listens to each
But keeps within reach
Her warning, anthropological, bell

Our leader is named Bill McGrew
And he chose an agreeable crew
To Cabo we came
To join in his game
Success of all kinds will accrue

Dr Jane she was here and then gone
En route for Alaska - so long
We're glad that she fights
With all of her might
To save chimps from here to Hong Kong

Mahale, a magical place
Is where Toshi, with unflinching grace,
Has studied the chimps
They're fighters not whimps
Coalitions avoid losing face

Dr Kano is quiet and wise
The bonobo sexual surprise
He revealed with a smile
But it took quite a while
To place this behavioural prize

Dr Wrangham was Madingley's best
But he climbed on a plane and flew west
For he could well see
That high grade THV
Grew greener by far in US

A young lady called Fruth moves so fast
She climbs up both trees and boat masts
To get to those nests
She gives of her best
And I bet that she'll never be last

A Dutch girl named Lottie likes lots
Of acquisitive baby robots
And what is the theory?
That we should be leery
Of attributes like intention....or not?

Wamba was the place Suehisa got
With bonobos dense at this spot
He got off the fragile bike
Preferring to hike
And so data came such a lot!

This brings us to Diane Doran
Who's studied Gorilla and Pan
Apart and sympatric
She details the antics
That differ from bipedal Man

Young John gives a real mean pant hoot
And throws in a long call to boot
But when he gives belch grunts
We all know that more stunts
Like parties will soon follow suit

A chimpanzee lady named Ai
A natural experiment try
She trained Matuzawa
Fine objects to show her
For pleasure of hand, mind and eye

A politically correct man, Frans
Showed a great passion for dance
But is it aggressive,
Passive or submissive
Or just letting off steam, quite by chance

L'homme de la forêt, Christophe
Who never will beat round the bush
Watched Tai chimps use tools
And break all the rules
With their drumming and colobus butch (ering)

There is a young lass from Lopé
Who follows gorillas each day
DBH is her measure
Sieving jobbies her pleasure
As she makes up her limericks risqué